

REMARKS

In the above identified Office Action the Examiner has objected to the disclosure because of the failure to insert the reference to the prior PCT application in the specification. By the above amendment this objection is considered obviated.

Claims 1-21 have been rejected under 35 USC Section 112 as indefinite for use of the terminology "characterized in that". Applicant has amended each of the claims to delete the phrase and insert in its stead an acceptable transition phrase.

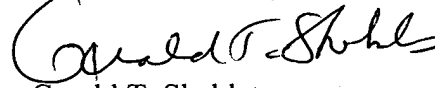
In addition to the above, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 6, 8 and 9 as unpatentable over Japanese abstract 2003-246695 in view of Japanese abstract 09-263493. Applicant has amended claim 1 to insert the feature that the ratio of M to V is controlled, thereby distributing the impurities in a uniform fashion. There is no teaching or suggestion in either of the applied references of this feature and, accordingly, applicant believes that claim 1 is now allowable over such references.

Claims 3, 6, 8 and 9 have been cancelled thereby obviating the rejection as to those claims. In addition, claims 2, 4, 5 and 7 have been amended to add active steps to the method as opposed to the original passive steps. Further, claims 12, 13, 18 and 19 have been amended to incorporate the restrictions of the claim upon which they previously depended and are now cancelled.

Applicant hereby requests reconsideration and re-examination thereof.

With the above amendments and remarks applicant believes this application to be ready for allowance and earnestly solicits early notice of same. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application she is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
WELSH & KATZ, Ltd.



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